



EcoPurchasing means
considering attributes
such as



recycled content
toxicity
reusability
durability
repairability



before you buy
a product.

1997 Buy-Recycled Series Landscaping Products

It might be easier than you think to turn garbage into gardens! Whether you're a park manager, professional landscaper, or tend a small garden bed, you'll find recycled-content products offer a quick, effective, and affordable way to make your grounds green.



To make it easier to buy recycled, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updates the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) each year. Through the CPG, EPA designates items that must contain recycled content when purchased by federal, state, and local agencies or by government contractors using appropriated federal funds. Several landscaping products are among these items. EPA's research shows that the items designated in the CPG are of high quality, widely available, and cost-competitive with virgin products. EPA also issues a non-regulatory companion piece—the Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN)—that recommends levels of recycled content for these items.

So the next time you need a garden hose, edging, or soil amendments, buy recycled! You'll help reduce waste, and your landscape will turn a deeper shade of green.





What Is The CPG?

**The CPG
requires
federal
agencies to
buy items
made from
recovered
materials.**

Recycling is more than just dropping off your cans, bottles, and newspapers at the curb or at a local collection facility. Diverting recyclables from the waste stream is only the first step in the recycling process. The second step occurs when companies use these recyclables to manufacture new products. The third step comes when you purchase products made from recovered materials. That's how we close the loop.

To encourage the purchase of recycled products, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requires agencies to buy recycled products. In addition, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12873 in October 1993, which called for an increase in the federal government's use of recycled-content products. Developed in response to these directives, the CPG requires federal agencies to give preference to EPA-designated items made with recovered materials. This, in turn, supports recycling markets and allows recycling to continue to expand.

Issued in May 1995, the first CPG designated 19 new products in 7 product categories that procuring agencies are required to purchase with recycled content. (A procuring agency is any federal, state, or local agency or government contractor that uses appropriated federal funds to purchase products.) A CPG update (CPG II) was published in November 1997, and designated an additional 12 items, including garden and soaker hoses, and lawn and garden edging.

If your agency spends more than \$10,000 per year on a product designated in the CPG, you are required to purchase it with the highest recycled-content level practicable. The CPG also applies to lease contracts covering designated items.

By May 1, 1996, your agency was required to develop an affirmative procurement program (or modify its existing program) to incorporate buy-recycled requirements for hydraulic mulch and yard trimmings compost. It is not too late to develop your affirmative procurement program if you have not already done so. This effort might involve reviewing your specifications for these products and eliminating provisions that pose barriers to procuring them with recycled content (such as aesthetic requirements unrelated to product performance). Your agency also must revise its affirmative procurement program to add the newly designated items—hoses and edging—by November 13, 1998.

The CPG acknowledges, however, that specific circumstances might arise that preclude the purchase of products made with recovered materials. You may purchase designated items that do not contain recovered materials if you determine that: (1) the price of a given designated item made with recovered materials is unreasonably high, (2) there is inadequate competition (not enough sources of supply), (3) unusual and unreasonable delays would result from obtaining the item, or (4) it does not meet your agency's reasonable performance specifications.



How Do I Purchase Recycled-Content Landscaping Products?

To help agencies comply with the buy-recycled requirements, EPA also issues guidance in RMANs, which are designed to make it as easy as possible to buy the designated items. The RMANs recommend recycled-content levels to look for when purchasing landscaping products, as shown in the chart below. Following the RMANs' recommended levels will help ensure that your affirmative procurement program and standards meet the buy-recycled requirements.

Rather than specifying just one level of recycled content, the RMANs recommend ranges that reflect actual market conditions. The recommendations are based on market research identifying recycled-content products that are commercially available, are competitively priced, and meet buyers' quality standards.

Refer to EPA's *Landscaping Products Containing Recovered Materials* for sources of the designated items.

The RMAN recommends recycled content ranges at which the designated items are generally available in the marketplace.

EPA's Recommended Content Levels for Landscaping Products

Landscaping Products	Recovered Material Content Recommendations
Hydraulic Mulch: —Paper —Wood/Paper	100% 100%
Yard Trimmings Compost	Purchase or produce compost from yard trimmings, leaves, and/or grass clippings using an on-site composting system when feasible.
Garden Hose: —Rubber and/or Plastic Soaker Hose: —Rubber and/or Plastic	60 – 65% (postconsumer) 60 – 70% (postconsumer)
Lawn and Garden Edging: —Rubber and/or Plastic	30 – 100% (postconsumer) /30-100% (total)



How Do I Purchase Recycled-Content Landscaping Products? (Continued)

Planting the Seeds: Hydraulic Mulch

You might be establishing wildflowers along an interstate. Or maybe you're replanting grass on a public golf course. In either case, your first step is to plant the seeds. Hydraulic mulch is a quick, proven, and affordable way to help get the job done. Utilizing recovered newspaper and wood products, hydraulic mulch is commonly used in highway construction projects to grow grass along embankments, medians, and roadways. It is also used in recreational areas and on residential lawns. Through hydroseeding, a mixture of water, seeds, and hydraulic mulch is sprayed over soil. The mulch stabilizes the soil, prevents wind and water erosion, and provides protection and warmth for the seeds, helping them grow.

Be sure you require that contractors use hydraulic mulch for all your hydroseeding projects, where appropriate. Hydraulic mulch not only protects young seeds from the elements; it also strengthens demand for wood waste and the newspaper you recycle in your local recycling program.

CASE STUDY: Texas Department of Transportation

For the past 10 years, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has used hydraulic mulch made from recovered newspaper and other recovered paper fibers in its seeding operations in highway construction. In the past year alone, the agency used more than 2,000 tons of the product to establish vegetative cover along roadways and embankments. The agency has also tested the product's performance and is pleased with the results. For more information, contact Paul Northcutt of the TxDOT at 512 416-3091.

Strengthening the Soil: Yard Trimmings Compost

Used frequently in both commercial and residential applications, yard trimmings compost turns the organic waste we might otherwise throw away—such as grass, leaves, and twigs—into an effective soil amendment. Compost returns nutrients to the soil, improves soil texture, and promotes new plant growth.

With an increase in the number of yard trimmings composting facilities, from 651 in 1988 to more than 3,200 in 1996, the market is clearly growing for this valuable product. Even so, more yard trimmings could be composted still—they constitute almost 15 percent of our national waste stream, with 30.6 million tons generated in 1995. By using yard trimmings compost in your landscaping projects, you help put this material back to good use.

CASE STUDY: Washington State Department of Transportation

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) first began using yard trimmings compost as a soil amendment in response to a 1992 legislative mandate. Since then, the department has used the material in a variety of roadside revegetation and restoration projects, as well as in wetland mitigation sites. On any given project, the department uses between 100 and several thousand cubic yards of material. One project along Interstate 405, for example, used more than 2,900 cubic yards of compost to enrich the soil. The department also gives contractors doing land-clearing work the option of chipping trees and shrubs and leaving the material on site, saving hauling and disposal fees and returning this material back to the soil. The department has been very pleased with the performance of the yard trimmings compost and continues to increase its use of the material. For more information, contact Mark Maurer of the WSDOT at 360 705-7242.



Quenching Mother Nature's Thirst: Garden and Soaker Hoses

Once your seeds are planted and the soil is enhanced with nutrient-rich compost, nothing is more important than adequate watering. The questions of how much and how often to water are a matter of local climatic conditions, but one thing is clear—buying recovered-content garden and soaker hoses is the ideal choice for watering your garden or planted areas. Not only will these devices deliver water to meet your garden's needs, they also help create new uses for old tires and recycled plastics from such items as discarded cable wires and old traffic cones.

The Border Line: Lawn and Garden Edging

When you're ready to finish the job, recovered-content lawn and garden edging provides the perfect barrier for delineating your beds. Sold in both industrial and residential strengths, these quality products help to keep grass and weeds out of flower and vegetable beds, saving time and money. You can purchase up to 100 percent postconsumer recovered-content edging, which is made from scrap rubber, milk jugs, and other plastic containers.

CASE STUDY: Army Air Force Exchange Service

The Army Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) purchased more than 5.5 million feet of 65 percent postconsumer recovered-content soaker hose over the past 4 years, keeping thousands of scrap tires out of landfills. AAFES operates retail stores for active and retired members of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. Customers primarily use the product in gardening and landscaping projects on military bases and at private residences of military personnel. For more information, contact Carol Andrews of AAFES at 214 312-2236.

How Do I Get More Information?



Information Available From EPA

This fact sheet and the following publications on buying recycled products are available in electronic format on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure.htm>. Use Internet e-mail to order paper copies of documents. Include the requestor's name and mailing address on all orders. Address e-mail to: rcra-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Text of the following *Federal Register* notices can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/search.htm>. Search by specific day, by keywords, or by accessing the Government Printing Office database.

Paper copies also may be ordered by calling the RCRA Hotline. Callers within the Washington Metropolitan Area must dial 703 412-9810 or TDD 703 412-3323 (hearing impaired). Long-distance callers may call 800 424-9346 or TDD 800 553-7672. The RCRA Hotline operates weekdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., EST.

- ❖ *Federal Register (FR)* notices promulgating CPG I (60 FR 21370/EPA530-Z-95-006) and RMAN I (60 FR 21386/EPA530-Z-95-007), May 1, 1995. *Federal Register* notices promulgating CPG II (62 FR 60961/EPA530-Z-97-009) and RMAN II (62 FR 60975/EPA530-Z-97-010), November 13, 1997.
- ❖ *EPA Issues Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (EPA530-F-95-010)*. This 4-page fact sheet provides general information about the CPG and the development of affirmative procurement programs.
- ❖ *Landscaping Products Containing Recovered Materials (EPA530-B-97-012)*. This list identifies sources of landscaping products containing recovered materials.

The following compost fact sheets are available from EPA:

- *Innovative Uses of Compost—Bioremediation and Pollution Prevention (EPA530-F-97-042)*.
- *Innovative Uses of Compost—Erosion Control, Turf Remediation, and Landscaping (EPA530-F-97-043)*.
- *Innovative Uses of Compost—Disease Control for Plants and Animals (EPA530-F-97-044)*.
- *Innovative Uses of Compost—Composting of Soils Contaminated by Explosives (EPA530-F-97-045)*.
- *Innovative Uses of Compost—Reforestation, Wetlands Restoration, and Habitat Revitalization (EPA530-F-97-046)*.

EPA has also developed a presentation folder that highlights new and innovative uses for compost (EPA530-F-97-047).


- ❖ *A Study of State and Local Government Procurement Practices that Consider Environmental Performance of Goods and Services (EPA742-R-96-007)*. This report provides important program elements and case studies of state and county agencies purchasing environmentally preferable products and services. For a copy of the report or more information on EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program, contact the Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse at 401 M Street, SW. (7409), Washington, DC 20460. Phone: 202 260-1023. Fax: 202 260-4659. Visit the EPP homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/p2home>.



Other Sources of Information

- ❖ **Buy Recycled Business Alliance.** The Alliance includes over 3,200 companies and organizations committed to increasing their use of recycled-content products and materials in their day-to-day operations. The Alliance offers educational materials, a quarterly newsletter, and product-specific guides. Public purchasing entities can join free of charge. For more information, contact Bonnie Fedchok, National Recycling Coalition, 1727 King Street, Suite 105, Alexandria, VA 22314-2720. Phone: 703 683-9025, Ext. 209. Fax: 703 683-9026.
- ❖ **The Composting Council.** The Composting Council offers educational materials and workshops on composting and seeks to develop standards for compost. For more information, contact the organization at 114 South Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 703 739-2401. Fax: 703 739-2407. Homepage: <http://www.composter.com/composting/compccouncil/>.
- ❖ **General Services Administration (GSA).** GSA publishes various supply catalogs, guides, and schedules for recycled-content products available through the Federal Supply Service. For copies of the following document and other information, contact GSA, Centralized Mailing List Service (7CAFL), 4900 Hemphill Street, P.O. Box 6477, Fort Worth, TX 76115. Phone: 817 334-5215. Fax: 817 334-5227. You can also access *GSA Advantage!*, GSA's Internet-based online ordering system, to order any GSA product at <https://www.fss.gsa.gov/cgi-bins/advwel>.



- *Environmental Products Guide*. This GSA guide is designed to help procurement officials identify environmentally preferable products and services. It contains nearly 3,000 items, including many recycled-content products.
 - ❖ **Green Seal**. Green Seal is a national non-profit labeling organization that sets environmental standards, including those for garden hoses, and awards a Green Seal of Approval to products meeting those standards. For more information, contact Green Seal at 1400 16th Street, NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: 202 588-8400. Fax: 202 588-8465. Homepage: <http://www.greenseal.org>.
 - ❖ *Greening the Government: A Guide to Implementing E.O. 12873*. This guide provides detailed information on establishing and implementing federal affirmative procurement plans. Updated in the summer of 1997, it is available without charge from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, 401 M Street SW. (Mail Code 1600), Washington, DC 20460. Phone: 202 260-1297. Fax: 202 401-9503. Homepage: <http://www.ofee.gov>.
 - ❖ *Official Recycled Products Guide*. This directory lists more than 5,000 manufacturers and distributors of recycled-content products, including those of hydraulic mulch, compost, garden and soaker hoses, and lawn and garden edging. For more information, contact the Recycling Data Management Corporation, P.O. Box 577, Ogdensburg, NY 13669. Phone: 800 267-0707. Fax: 315 471-3258.
 - ❖ *Recycled Plastic Products Source Book*. This booklet lists more than 1,300 plastic products from approximately 300 manufacturers, including garden hoses and edging. For more information, call the American Plastics Council (APC), 1801 K Street, NW., Suite 7010, Washington, DC 20006. Phone: 202 974-5400. Fax: 202 296-7119. Visit the APC homepage at <http://www.plasticsresource.com>.
 - ❖ *Recycled Rubber Products Catalog*. This catalog lists products manufactured from recovered rubber and provides information on how to obtain them. For more information, contact the Scrap Tire Management Council, 1400 K Street, NW., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005. Phone: 202 682-4880. Fax: 202 682-4854.
 - ❖ *Products and Services Directory*. This publication lists manufacturers of erosion control products, including hydraulic mulch. For more information, contact the International Erosion Control Association, P.O. Box 774904, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477-4904. Phone: 970 879-3010. Fax: 970 879-8563. Homepage: <http://www.ieca.org>.
- 

Internet Sites

 - ❖ American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM): <http://www.astm.org/prodserv.html>. This site provides links to ASTM standards, the products and services offered by ASTM, and other news and information. ASTM has developed standards for garden and soaker hoses.
 - ❖ California Recycled-Content Product Database: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/mrt/rcp/rcp.htm>. This site contains information on why to buy recycled-content products, how to procure them, and provides access to a database with information on products, as well as manufacturers, distributors, reprocessors, mills, and converters across the country who procure or produce these products.
 - ❖ King County Recycled Product Procurement Program: <http://www.metrokc.gov/oppis/recyclea.html>. This site describes the tools and techniques developed by King County, Washington, agencies for purchasing recycled products.
 - ❖ The Procurement Assistance Jumpstation: <http://www.fedmarket.com/procinet.html>. This site contains links to many sites containing procurement information.
 - ❖ Reduce, Reuse, Recycle...Through Procurement: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure.htm>. This site describes EPA's effort to facilitate the procurement of products containing recovered materials, including information on CPG, RMANs, and the Buy Recycled Series.
- In addition, contact your state solid waste management agency for information about local and regional businesses that produce or distribute recycled-content products.*



United States
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW. (5306W)
Washington, DC 20460

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use
\$300